CLAIMS

I Claim:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   receiving a broadcast signal from a broadcast source;

3   selecting a broadcast segment of said broadcast signal;

4   determining if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content for a signal

5   database, wherein said signal database is a plurality of stored signals; and,

6   modifying said signal database with signal information from a portion of said

7   broadcast segment if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a broadcast signal comprises receiving an

2   audio signal.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a broadcast signal includes receiving an

2   analog signal.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a broadcast signal comprises receiving a

2   signal from a network connection.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining if said broadcast segment contains a valid

2   signal content includes:

3   selecting a portion of said broadcast segment;

4   measuring at least one signal characteristic value of said portion; and,

5   comparing said signal characteristic value to a pre-determined threshold.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining if said broadcast segment contains a valid

2   signal content includes:

3   generating a signal descriptor for a portion of the broadcast segment;

4   computing an equivalence value for said signal descriptor and a descriptor in a

5   descriptor database; and,

6   comparing said equivalence value to a predetermined threshold.

1   7. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying said signal database includes adding a
2   portion of said broadcast segment to said signal database.

1   8. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying said signal database includes updating at
2   least one portion of a signal in the signal database with signal information from a portion
3   of the broadcast segment.

1   9. The method of claim 3 wherein receiving an analog signal includes converting the
2   analog signal to a digital signal.

1   10. The method of claim 6, wherein computing said equivalence value includes
2   calculating a correlation coefficient.

1   11. The method of claim 6, wherein computing said equivalence value includes
2   calculating a likeness coefficient.

1   12. The method of claim 6 wherein generating a signal descriptor includes
2   selecting a portion of said broadcast segment as the signal descriptor.

1   13. The method of claim 6 wherein generating a signal descriptor includes:
2   selecting a portion of said broadcast segment;
3   measuring at least one signal characteristic of said portion; and,
4   selecting at least one signal characteristic as a signal descriptor.

1   14. The method of claim 8 wherein updating at least one portion of a signal in the signal
2   database with signal information from a portion of said broadcast segment inlcudes:
3   averaging a portion of said broadcast segment with a portion of a signal in the signal
4   database resulting in an average signal; and,
5   storing the average signal in the signal database.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein measuring at least one signal characteristic includes
2 measuring a signal amplitude.

1 16. The method of claim 13 wherein measuring at least one signal characteristic includes
2 measuring at least one signal frequency.

1 17. A machine readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions to be executed
2 by a processor, the execution of said instructions to implement a method comprising:
3   receiving a broadcast signal from a broadcast source;
4   selecting a broadcast segment of said broadcast signal;
5   determining if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content for a signal
6 database, wherein said signal database is a plurality of stored signals; and,
7   modifying said signal database with signal information from a portion of said
8 broadcast segment if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content.

1 18. The medium of claim 17 wherein the execution of said instructions further cause the
2 modifying of said signal database by adding a portion of the broadcast segment to said
3 signal database.

1 19. The medium of claim 17 wherein the execution of said instructions further cause the
2 modifying of said signal database by updating at least one portion of a signal in the signal
3 database with signal information from a portion of the broadcast segment.

1 20. A system comprising:
2   a receiver to receive a broadcast signal;
3   a first memory coupled with said receiver to store a broadcast signal segment;
4   a processing device coupled with said first memory to process said broadcast signal,
5 wherein processing comprises:
6   selecting a broadcast segment of said broadcast signal;
7   determining if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content for a signal
8 database, wherein a signal database is a plurality of stored signals; and

9   modifying said signal database with signal information from a portion of the selected

10   broadcast segment if said broadcast segment contains a valid signal content;

11   a second memory coupled with said processor to store a signal database; and

12   a third memory coupled with said processor to store a descriptor database.

1   21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a fourth memory coupled with said

2   processor to store an identification database, wherein said identification database contains

3   information associated with a signal in the signal database and a descriptor in the

4   descriptor database.

1   22. The system of claim 20 wherein the first, second, and third memory are in system

2   memory.

1   23. The system of claim 20 wherein the first, second, and third memories are separate

2   memory devices.

1   24. An apparatus comprising:

2   a receiver to receive a broadcast signal;

3   a selector to select a portion of said received broadcast signal;

4   an identifier to identify at least one signal characteristic of said portion;

5   a database to store signal information; and

6   a modifier to modify said database with signal information from said portion.

1   25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the identifier further includes a descriptor

2   generator.

1   26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the receiver is a radio broadcast signal receiver.

1   27. An apparatus comprising:

2   a descriptor generator to generate descriptors of signals.

1   28. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising a modifier to modify a signal database.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising an identifier to analyze signal
2 characteristics.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising a selector to select a segment of a
2 broadcast signal.